Production, Import and Export of Pulses

†1071. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of Pulses in the country during the last year and quantity of Pulses imported and exported during the same period; and

(b) what are the reasons for this contradiction that Government make import of Pulses to meet the domestic demand on the one hand and it has not taken any effective measures to check the exports to be made to foreign countries on the other hand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total production, import and export of pulses during 1998-99 were as follows:

Production Lakh MT	Imports (Prov.) Quantity (MT)	Exports (Prov.) Value (Rs. Crores)	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Rs. Crores)
148.09	3,12,744	404.52	1,01,448	218.74

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(b) The Export Import policy regarding agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes, earning foreign exchange and to augment domestic availability. The variety of pulses available for export in consumer packs and the attractive unit value realisation dictates that exports be allowed, while shortfall in certain varieties necessitates imports, to bridge the gap between demand and supply. At present import of pulses is under Open General Licence. No duty applies on imported pulses. The export policy enjoins the exporters to export pulses in consumer packs of not more than 5 Kgs each.

Law to protect country's natural wealth

1072. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new law to protect the country's natural wealth from predators of abroad is likely to be presented in Parliament in the Budget Session;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed legislation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the proposed law will also include the maritime exclusive economic zone and will be uniformly applicable to the foreigner and Non-Resident Indians to prevent biopiracy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) In order to protect the biodiversity of the country, the Government is formulating a legislation on biodiversity with the broad objectives of conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources. All efforts are being made to introduce the Bill in the Parliment soon.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Involvement of State Governments in Exports

1073. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to involve the various State Governments to facilitate growth and bring about quantum jump in exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have involved themselves in the exercise;

(d) whether adequate incentives would be given to the State Governments in order to motivate their efforts in this direction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) The Centre seeks participation of States in export promotion by way of provision of adequate and quality infrastructure, input support, relief from imposts, removal of procedural and other constraints etc. States are also consulted on matters which are specific to them. In the Exim policy, there is a provision to recognise one agency of the State Government as Export House in relaxation of the criterion.

An Export Promotion Industrial Parks Scheme (EPIP) is being implemented in the country since 1993-94 in co-operation with the State Governments. Under this scheme 20 EPIPs have been approved for different States all over